WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A system for use by account holders in transferring funds from preestablished accounts to third party recipients, comprising:

controller processor for processing data according to command instructions and for creating customer account files, said controller processor having a data storage device associated therewith for storing file records of the amounts of funds deposited by said account holders in said preestablished accounts, each file containing a primary file into which the amount of funds deposited is recorded, and a secondary file into which at least a portion of the amount of the deposited funds may be transferred and recorded by said controller processor in response to command instructions issued by said account holder, wherein the amount of the funds recorded in said secondary file may be electronically transferred by the controller processor to payees selected by said third party recipients in response to command instructions issued by said third party recipients, and wherein said system further includes a data storage device associated with said controller processor for storing file records of information on each selected payee of funds from said secondary file and the corresponding payment amount;

at least one input device for supplying to said controller processor command instructions from said account holders and said third party recipients; and

an output device for periodically supplying to each account holder said file record containing information on each selected payee of funds and corresponding payment amounts.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein said third party command instructions include a command instruction for a cash withdrawal payment to be electronically transferred to said third party.

-23-

3.   The system of claim 2, wherein the input device for said cash withdrawal payment command instruction is an ATM machine to which said cash withdrawal payment is electronically transferred and issued.

4.   The system of claim 1, wherein said payee selected by said third party recipient is a merchant or service provider providing goods or services to said third party recipient, and said third party command instructions include a command instruction for an electronic funds transfer to said payee to pay for said goods or services.

5.   The system of claim 4, wherein the input device for said third party command instruction is a point-of-sale transaction device including a magnetic card reader.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein said controller processor is adapted to process command instructions from said account holder to store in said data storage device associated therewith information on electronic fund transfer payees subject to periodic limits on the amount of funds that may be transferred, to inquire into each electronic fund transfer command instruction issued by said third party recipient to determine whether the payee is subject to a transaction limit below the transfer amount requested, to complete the electronic fund transfer when the payee is not subject to a transaction limit below the amount requested, and to discontinue the electronic fund transfer when the payee is subject to a transaction limit below the amount requested.

7.   The system of claim 6, wherein said electronic fund transfer payees that may be subjected to periodic limits include said third party recipient.

8.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a magnetic card encoded with an identifier correlated to said secondary file of said preestablished account.

-24-

9.	A system for use by account holders in transferring funds from preestablished accounts to third party recipients, comprising:

controller processor for processing data according to command instructions and for creating customer account files, said

5	controller processor having a data storage device associated therewith for storing file records of the amounts of funds deposited by said account holders in said preestablished accounts, each file containing a primary file into which the amount of funds deposited is recorded, and a secondary file into which at least a portion of the amount of the deposited funds may be

10	transferred and recorded by said controller processor in response to command instructions issued by said account holder, wherein the amount of the funds recorded in said secondary file may be electronically transferred by said controller processor to payees selected by said third party recipients in response to command instructions issued by said third party recipients,

15	and wherein said system further includes a data storage device associated with said controller processor for storing file records of information on each selected payee of funds from said secondary file and the corresponding payment amount and wherein said controller processor is adapted to process command instructions from said account holder to store in said data storage

20	device associated therewith information on electronic fund transfer payees subject to periodic limits on the amount of funds that may be transferred; and

at least one input device for supplying to said controller processor command instructions from said account holders and third party

25	recipients;

wherein said controller processor is adapted to inquire into each electronic fund transfer command instruction issued by said third party recipient to determine whether said payee is subject to a transaction limit below the transfer amount requested, to complete said electronic fund

-25-

transfer when said payee is not subject to a transaction limit below the amount requested, and to discontinue said electronic fund transfer when said payee is subject to a transaction limit below the amount requested.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein said third party command instructions include a command instruction for a cash withdrawal payment to be electronically transferred to said third party.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the input device for said cash withdrawal payment command instruction is an ATM machine to which said cash withdrawal payment is electronically transferred and issued.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein said payee selected by said third party recipient is a merchant or service provider providing goods or services to said third party recipient, and said third party command instructions include a command instruction for an electronic funds transfer to said payee to pay for said goods or services.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the input device for said third party command instruction is a point-of-sale transaction device including a magnetic card reader.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein said electronic fund transfer payees that may be subjected to periodic limits include said third party recipient.

15. The system of claim 9, further comprising a magnetic card encoded with an identifier correlated to said secondary file of said preestablished account.

16. A system for allocating promotional funds in preestablished accounts for use by customers, comprising:

controller processor for processing data according to command instructions and for creating customer account files, said controller processor having a data storage device associated therewith for storing file records of the amounts of funds issued to said customers,

-26-

wherein said promotional funds may be electronically transferred by said controller processor to payees selected by said customers in response to command instructions issued by said customers, and wherein said system further includes a data storage device associated with said controller

5   processor for storing file records of information on each selected payee of funds and the corresponding payment amount and wherein said controller processor is adapted to process command instructions to store in said data storage device associated therewith information for each customer on electronic fund transfer payees subject to periodic limits on the amount of

10   funds that may be transferred; and

at least one input devices for supplying to said controller processor command instructions from customers;

wherein said controller processor is adapted to inquire into each electronic fund transfer command instruction issued by said

15   customers to determine whether said payee is subject to a transaction limit below the transfer amount requested, to complete said electronic fund transfer when said payee is not subject to a transaction limit below the amount requested, and to discontinue said electronic fund transfer when said payee is subject to a transaction limit below the amount requested.

20   17.   A computer-based method for use by account holders in transferring funds from preestablished accounts to third party recipients, comprising:

creating a customer account file including a primary file containing a record of funds deposited by said account holder;

25   establishing a secondary file in said customer account file in response to command instructions from said account holder;

designating a third party recipient permitted access to said secondary file in response to command instructions from said account holder;

-27-

transferring to said secondary file in response to command instructions from said account holder at least a portion of the record of funds contained in said primary file representing deposited funds accessible to said third party recipient;

5   storing a file record of information on every electronic fund transfer executed by said third party recipient from said secondary file, including information on the transfer payee and the corresponding payment amount; and

providing periodically to said account holder an

10   itemized statement generated from said file record of executed electronic fund transfers from said secondary file.

18.   The method of claim 17, further including the steps of:

designating in response to command instructions from said account holder, payees of funds to be withdrawn by said third party

15   recipient subject to a limit on the amount of funds that may be withdrawn: and

verifying each withdrawal from said secondary file requested by said third party recipient to determine whether it is subject to a limit in the amount of the transaction, and whether that limit has been

20   exceeded.

19.   The method of claim 18, further including the step of sending a disapproval signal if there is a transaction limit that is exceeded.

20.   The method of claim 18, further including the step of sending an approval signal if there is no transaction limit, or if there is a

25   transaction limit that has not been exceeded.

21.   The method of claim 18, wherein said payees subject limits on amounts of funds that may be withdrawn include said third party recipient.

-28-

22.   The method of claim 18, wherein said limit is a periodic limit.

23.   A computer-based method for use by account holders in transferring funds from preestablished accounts to third party recipients, comprising:

creating a customer account file including a primary file containing a record of funds deposited by said account holder;

establishing a secondary file in said customer account file in response to command instructions from said account holder;

designating a third party recipient permitted access to said secondary file in response to command instructions from said account holder;

transferring to said secondary file in response to command instructions from said account holder at least a portion of the record of funds contained in said primary file representing deposited funds accessible to said third party recipient;

designating in response to command instructions from said account holder, payees of funds to be withdrawn by said third party recipient subject to a limit on the amount of funds that may be withdrawn; and

verifying each withdrawal from said secondary file requested by said third party recipient to determine whether it is subject to a limit in the amount of the transaction, and whether that limit has been exceeded.

24.   The method of claim 23, further including the step of sending a disapproval signal if there is a transaction limit that is exceeded.

25.   The method of claim 23, further including the step of sending an approval signal if there is no transaction limit, or if there is a transaction limit that has not been exceeded.

-29-

26. The method of claim 23, wherein said payees subject limits on amounts of funds that may be withdrawn include said third party recipient.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein said limit is a periodic limit.

28. A computer-based method for allocating promotional funds in preestablished accounts for use by customers comprising:

providing a customer account file containing a record of funds issued to customers;

designating payees of funds to be withdrawn by said customers subject to a limit on the amount of funds that may be withdrawn; and

verifying each withdrawal from said customer account file requested by said customers to determine whether it is subject to a limit in the amount of the transaction, and whether that limit has been exceeded.